

## **AID-OAA-A-1400099**

### **“Addressing Barriers to Best Conservation Practices in Colombia and Kenya”**

#### **Conservation Council of Nations (CCN) and International Conservation Corps (ICC)**

*Affiliated with International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)*

## **Kenya**

### **Highlights**

In Kenya, stakeholder engagement has progressed well related to parliament, although these efforts not entirely focused directly on Kenya, has involved Kenyan parliament in coordination with members of parliament from many countries in the region to develop common understanding and strategies to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. Technical assistance has mainly focused on developing a land use strategy and definition of priority needs for the Naibunga Conservancy and the communities. The team of Conservation Corps volunteers is high level and diverse, with members coming from backgrounds in the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, and the President of a private sector environmental company.

In Naibunga, the Conservation Corps team has primarily worked on developing a land use strategy, requested by the Conservancy, partly as a means to illustrate to communities where they should and should not allow settlement, which is currently encroaching into important areas for biodiversity conservation. The land use strategy also serves to identify practical on the ground needs related to water sources for wildlife and communities, rangeland improvement opportunities, and improvement of tourism opportunities that CCN plans to work on in fiscal year 2016.

### **Overview**

The major objectives of the project are to assist in addressing threats to biodiversity, and improving enabling conditions for conservation in Kenya and Colombia. Another major goal is to demonstrate the value of integrating policy and practice.

CCN and its regional affiliates (ICCF Colombia, ICCF Kenya) aim to add value and fill gaps in capacity in efforts to conserve and sustainably utilize biodiversity and other natural resources. Our approach broadly consists of two elements:

1. Engagement of high level stakeholders in partner nations from the political, private, and non-governmental sectors in order to facilitate priority setting, and educate stakeholders on subjects pertaining to identified priorities, and
2. Provision of highly experienced conservation professionals who contribute pro bono services to assist governmental and NGO partners in achieving conservation and development priorities.

In Kenya, CCN will support the Naibunga Conservancy by initially providing volunteer professionals for land use planning. This activity will inform future conservation and

development decisions of Naibunga, and will further inform CCN as to our capacity and which activities we can effectively support to further conservation through the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities (especially for women), help strengthen the ranger corps to curb poaching, and assist in combating invasive species.

CCN will also convene high level stakeholders to identify and agree upon priorities related to the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources, as well as educational briefings designed to increase knowledge of the identified priorities.

### **Kenya site(s) and context**

Situated in Laikipia North District, The Naibunga Conservation Trust (NCT) is a community initiative collectively owned and managed by nine group ranches. Naibunga is a lynchpin corridor in a broader landscape that provides critical habitat for significant and endangered wildlife species. Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and African wild dogs are especially notable endangered species associated with Naibunga and its neighboring community conservancies. Naibunga is a key linkage in the migration routes of elephants, from the far north in Samburo, to Mt. Kenya to the south. The health of these and other East African wildlife populations is enhanced by a well-managed, healthy Naibunga social and ecological system.

The Maasai people who make Naibunga their home and source of livelihood have a special history and value set that makes them uniquely qualified to be the stewards of such a globally significant place. They are generally pastoralists who have not only a tolerance for, but an appreciation for the wildlife with which they co-exist. The people understand that despite wildlife's inherent conflicts with their lives, they have a responsibility to the planet to co-exist in a manner that provides for the wildlife's needs, as well as their own needs.

Naibunga is also special as an opportunity to enhance livelihoods and accomplish conservation at the community level. The nine group ranches that make up the NCT cover 243,000 acres, including 43,000 acres that are zoned as conservation areas. This construct of nine entities coming together to advance common interests is special among the conservancies that make up the Northern Rangeland Trust. Its uniqueness stems in part from the fact that other conservancies have only one to three group ranches rather than nine. This arrangement presents additional challenges for coordination and opportunities for shared solutions and improvements that would otherwise not be available. The NCT represents an opportunity to find a way to provide for the needs of nine dispersed communities of people in conjunction with meeting the requirements of globally significant wildlife populations that live in or migrate through the Naibunga environment.

Since its inception in 2001, through a number of NGOs and community participation, substantial work has been accomplished in terms of problem and opportunity analysis and planning, as well as more limited work to advise and improve Naibunga's internal structure and staffing. Various web sites and documents describe the background and significance of the NCT. The most recent is a document entitled *Naibunga Conservancy Trust, Laikipia, Kenya* by Fiona Flintan and Diana Puyo (2012).

A five year Natural Resource Management Plan prepared in 2007, among other things, identified specific management actions and activities needed to meet the goals and objectives of the NCT. Some of those goals have been achieved, others remain to be completed, and the five years of experience can provide insights into additional needs and priorities. Some of the identified needs have been addressed while others have not, in large part due to the lack of sufficient resources. The prolonged drought in 2009 and worldwide recession also inhibited progress. Nevertheless, accomplishments include establishment and improvement of the ranger corps, training in sustainable grazing practices and on the ground improvement using holistic grazing techniques, identification and establishment of protected (non-grazing) areas, and some work on starting businesses for women (aloe soap, beadwork).

Many needs remain, including: improvements for the ranger corps associated with patrolling equipment, quality of life (e.g. tents, housing in the field), and capacity to conduct wildlife and other resource monitoring in a scientific manner; identifying water development priorities, techniques, and locations to accomplish multiple objectives; tourism development opportunities; other small business opportunities and marketing improvements; review of protected area boundaries in the context of new natural resource knowledge and neighboring lands situations; and efforts to eradicate an invasive cactus.

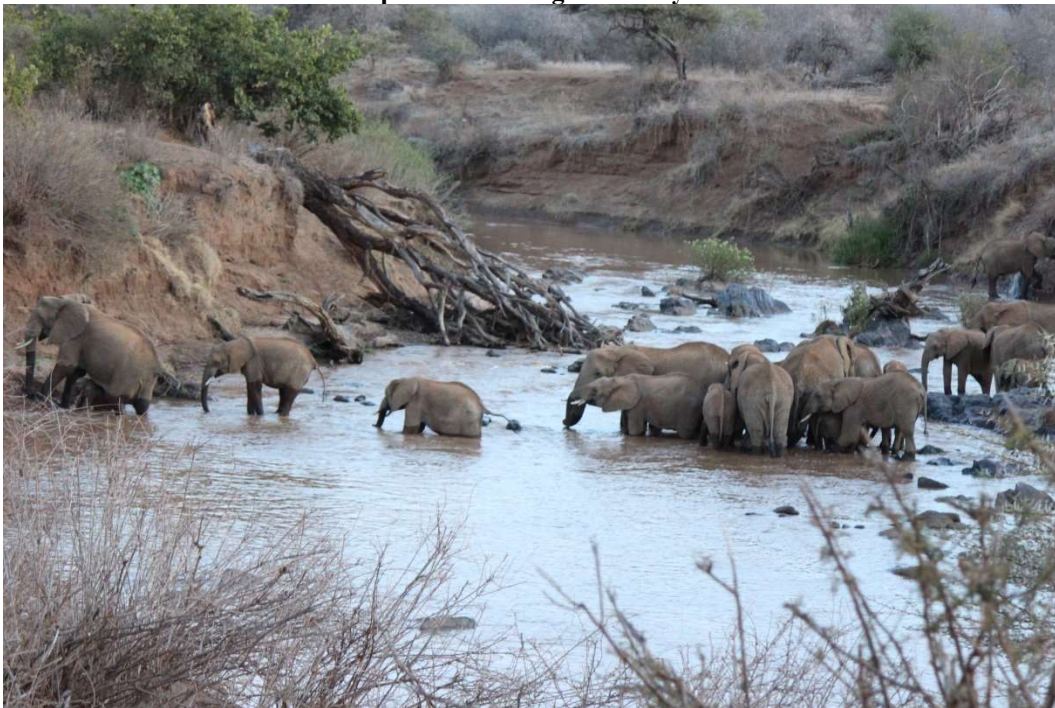
At both of the NCT community meetings in April 2015, which were designed to obtain feedback from the leaders of the nine group ranches during numerous one-on-one conversations with leading members of the community, the ICCF field team consistently heard that adequate water supply was a top ranked concern. At over 253,000 acres and with a population of approximately 35,000 Naibunga is significantly past the critical stage of needing easily accessible, dependable water infrastructure.

There have been several incidents of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), which occurred at watering points, specifically surface water locations such as hand dug wells, ponds, dams and rivers. Several of these incidents resulted in death. Moreover, sharing water sources with wildlife, particularly small, contained ponds, very often results in illness and disease. Although, it will be difficult and take several years to accomplish, the NCT should move towards dedicating all surface water source areas for wildlife use. This can be accomplished only through a strategic expansion of water supply points to coincide with population areas and extensive education of the public. It's also critical that such water sources be maintained to ensure the viability and diversity of wildlife on the conservancy.

#### **Example of wildlife in Naibunga area**



**Elephants Crossing Ewaso Nyiro**



## **Kenya Threats**

### **DIRECT THREATS**

1. Poaching for food or ivory, and associated illegal trade, put several species of wildlife at risk.
2. Lack of water sources for people (and livestock) and wildlife causes conflicts.
3. An invasive succulent diminishes productivity of grassland for wildlife and livestock.
4. Major infrastructure projects threaten ecosystem function and connectivity
  - a. Dam on one of Naibunga's most important rivers.
  - b. Electrical lines and towers being built through Naibunga.

### **INDIRECT THREATS**

1. Insufficient equipment and training for the Naibunga ranger corps to curb poaching and associated security concerns for the communities.
2. Lack of experience for planning to inform future actions related to conservation and development actions.
3. Lack of income earning opportunities for Maasai communities, especially women.
4. Lack of available capacity in the Naibunga Conservancy to carry forward conservation and development efforts. The Naibunga Conservancy has excellent personnel, but with limited access to additional capacity and expertise that would be helpful to accomplish some objectives.

## **Kenya conservation targets**

Naibunga is a key piece of a larger, diverse, habitat that supports substantial populations of East Africa's iconic wildlife, including Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, African wild dogs, and elephants. Naibunga plays a key role in helping sustain wildlife populations that require a well-managed large area for annual movements and habitat requirements. Depending on the species, Naibunga serves as year-round habitat, seasonal breeding or rearing zone, migration corridor, or buffer for wildlife in neighboring conservancies and private ranches.

White and black rhinos are present in neighboring Ol Jogi ranch, and a secure, healthy environment on Naibunga is an important factor for their long term viability. We are not yet sure if Naibunga is a foaling area for Grevy's zebras, but Ol Jogi is. Regardless, Naibunga provides significant home range habitat for Grevy's zebras, and wild dogs also depend on the conservancy for breeding and rearing young. Part of Naibunga's conservation value comes from two rivers that define the conservancy's borders and are reliable water sources throughout the year.

## **Objective 1 – Strengthen Management Capacity of Conservancy**

## Activity B: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A LAND USE STRATEGY Phase 1

In April 2015 a diverse group of 5 senior practitioners in various forms of land use and management traveled to Naibunga spending 4 weeks working with the Naibunga Conservancy Trust, communities, as well as NGO and government partners to initiate the process of developing a land use strategy – the priority expressed by the Naibunga Conservancy in part to provide the basis for inhibiting the continued encroachment of human settlement upon dedicated wildlife areas. The team developed a draft plan which highlighted wildlife versus human areas, human and wildlife water sources, tourism opportunities, rangeland improvements, and other issues.

The ConsCorps team's initial visit also motivated the beginning of a process within Naibunga which resulted in a series of community meetings and the development of 50 pages of handwritten notes of very specific details which complemented the broader land use strategy being developed by the ConsCorps team. Additionally, specifics about the water sources for settlements and wildlife were further defined as a result of the meetings.

The land use strategy of 25 pages identified 6 main recommendations including 1. Upgrade access to and distribution of water for human, livestock and wildlife use; 2. Coordinate a stakeholder conference to discuss fences, Human-Wildlife Conflict, and other wildlife issues; 3. Recognizing that the scope of rangeland improvement is broad and unsettled, and that there is already an HRM plan in place, it is recommended that ICCF focus on one element of this challenge: possible approaches to controlling *Opuntia stricta*; 4. Provide tools and equipment for patrol rangers in order to improve personal security and wildlife protection; 5. Upgrade existing tourism infrastructure and develop short and long term strategies to encourage visitor use; and 6. Diversity and enhance small business enterprise opportunities, especially those run by women.

A follow up visit was made by one of the team members to initially present and obtain feedback on the draft land use strategy, also meetings with a variety of local partners to Naibunga.

**Community Meetings with Conservation Corps Team to Discuss Land Use Priorities**





## Activity B: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A LAND USE STRATEGY Phase 2

Phase 2 is meant to take final steps to finalize the land use strategy that the ConsCorps team of 5 people initiated during Phase 1 at the request of the Naibunga Conservancy. One member of the ConsCorps team will travel to Naibunga to work with the Conservancy and other partners to finalize the land use strategy and define implementation steps for the priorities identified in the workplan. The scheduling and planning for this working visit was completed in September, 2015.

## Activity C: SUPPORT NCT MANAGEMENT TEAM

CCN provided additional financial support to the Conservancy Manager so that this position would be more viable. However during 2015 the NCT has been undergoing a leadership change. In 2016 CCN plans to hire a member of the Naibunga communities to add capacity to the NCT in implementing conservation projects.

### Conservation Corps Team at the Naibunga Conservancy HQ with the NCT Treasurer



## Objective 2 – Reduce threats to biodiversity

### Activity A: STRENGTHENING NAIBUNGA’S RANGER CORPS to reduce poaching, illegal grazing, and enhance community security

During 2015, CCN worked with NCT to identify and refine ranger needs for equipment and training. At the end of the fiscal year, plans were made to begin purchasing and delivering equipment for the NCT ranger corps. CCN researched different local and international options for providing training.

### Naibunga Conservancy Rangers



### **Activity B: COMBATING INVASIVE SPECIES – Initial Planning Activity**

Initial planning and research was conducted to identify the various possible methods for control, then on an initial strategy to employ that most appropriate method. Implementation expected to take place during 2016.

**Photos of the Invasive Cactus which is taking over rangelands used by livestock and wildlife**







### **Objective 3 – Enhance Local Incentives for Conservation**

#### **Activity A: LOCAL HANDICRAFTS (such as Beadwork products to market)**

Meeting was held in Nairobi between CCN and with member of the Naibunga Conservancy to discuss potential beadwork products, especially belts. Research was conducted to try developing initial markets for likely products such as beaded belts.

#### **Activity B: TOURISM**

One of the main community run tourism operations called Ol Gaboli Lodge, initially funded by the United Nations, was assessed by the Conservation Corps team with a variety of upgrades identified. The website for Ol Gaboli was lost and not recoverable, however CCN staff were able to recover most of the text and photos, with a plan to re-develop the site next fiscal year with an emphasis on local tourism market especially hosting group workshops and meetings.

#### **Ol Gaboli Community Run Lodge**



**Ol Gaboli Community Run Lodge Banda**

**Banda Entry**



**Banda Beds**

**View of Ewaso River from Banda**



### **Activity C: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT: Water Resource Inventory**

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

### **Activity D: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT (*illustrative opportunity dependent upon water resource inventory*) - Maintenance & Capacity Development: Repair, Replace, Operations & Maintenance Schedule and Staff Training; Water Systems Operations Plan**

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

**Villager Fills Water Jug Near Ewaso Village Only Source Shared by Livestock**



### **Activity E: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT (*illustrative opportunity dependent upon water resource inventory*) - Repair Broken Boreholes**

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

**Deep Well Near Naibunga Conservancy HQ**





**Activity F: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT** (*illustrative opportunity dependent upon water resource inventory*) - Ponds/Dams desilting and regrading

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

**Activity G: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT** (*illustrative opportunity dependent upon water resource inventory*) - Bank Filtration, Shallow Well Pilot/Aquifer Performance Test (APT)

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

**Line for Water at Rock Catchment Area**



**Dry Hand Dug Wells in Intermittent River Bed**



**Activity H: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT** (*illustrative opportunity dependent upon water resource inventory*) - World Vision Water Project Completion Analysis

The activity was defined with initial planning and budgeting, implementation expected to commence in 2016.

## **Objective 4 - SUPPORT KENYA CONSERVATION PRIORITY SETTING, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION**

### **Activity A: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING WORKSHOP**

A large amount of time was spent in Kenya by CCN working with stakeholders to prepare for the November 8th, 2014 workshop, where regional African countries of the EAC (East African Community) and SADC (Southern African Development Community) signed the Arusha Declaration, calling for the most comprehensive list of activities to strengthen transborder collaboration on combating wildlife/environmental crime and advancing conservation. The signatories included Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Tanzania. Malawi, Uganda, and Zambia are currently in the process of signing. This two-day Regional Summit to Stop Wildlife Crime and Advance Wildlife Conservation: A Call to Action, held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania brought together high-level delegates from the region and around the world and included Ministers and senior officials from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as development partner nations such as Belgium, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States to discuss issues of regional wildlife crime.

### **Activity B: STRENGTHEN THE JUDICIAL, PROSECUTORIAL AND SUPPORT SECTORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME**

In Kenya on July 28-29, 2015, The ICCF Group and experts in the prosecution and conviction of international crime hosted an East Africa Regional Judiciary/Law Enforcement Workshop on Wildlife/Environmental Crime in Nairobi, Kenya. The goal of the workshop was to strengthen the judicial, prosecutorial, and support sectors in the fight against wildlife crime. The two-day program addressed priorities and needs identified by the members of the judiciary and law enforcement with tools and strategies to strengthen the application of existing legal frameworks, enhance coordination within the law enforcement and judicial system on both the national and regional level, and utilize the resources and partnerships available in stopping and prosecuting wildlife/environmental crimes.

The workshop, which was designed for judges, local magistrates, prosecutors, customs officials, law enforcement officials, and senior policymakers, included delegations from several East African nations, including: Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Members of Parliament and other senior government officials from the region also participated to engage the legislative process on the recommendations put forth in the workshop. Development partners, NGOs, and private-sector stakeholders involved in regional conservation, law enforcement, combating transnational crime, shipping/transportation, tourism, and community development provided input on best practices from their sectors and the potential for further support and engagement.

Workshop sessions and discussions focused on (a) creating a holistic understanding of the criminal activities involved in poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife, as well as the significance of its impact on stability, rule of law, and economic development; (b) assessing the



major challenges faced by the judiciary and law enforcement professionals in prosecuting wildlife crimes, including gaps and loopholes in the legal frameworks / policies / legislation available; and (c) the effective use of available tools and legal frameworks in building successful cases against wildlife crime, coordinating law enforcement and judiciary activities, and strengthening regional collaboration.

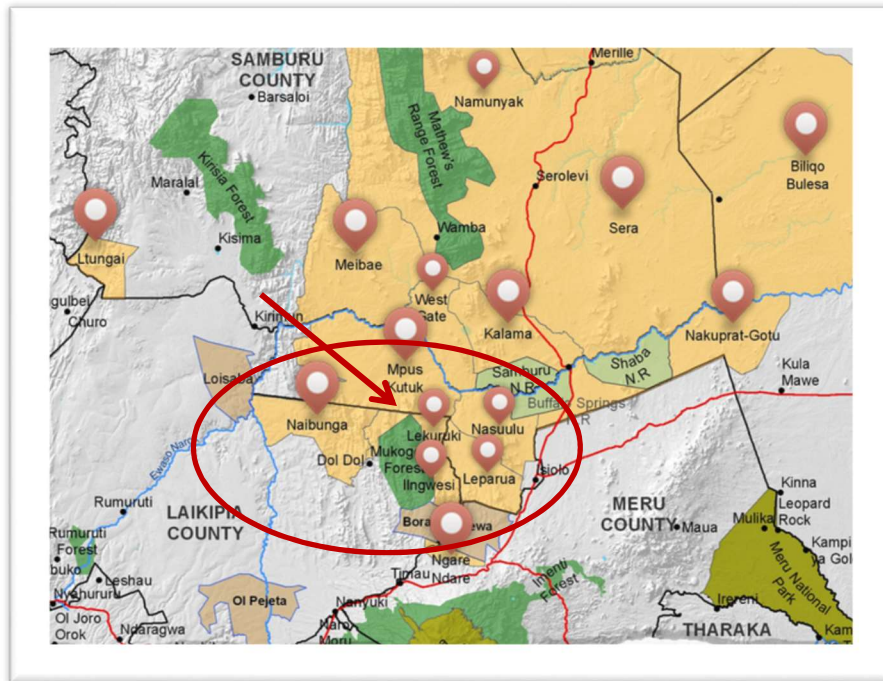
**Expert Panelists speak at the ICCF Judiciary Training Workshop in Nairobi - From left to right: Katie Ghilain, Sive, Paget & Riesel, PC; Professor Nicholas Oguge, University of Nairobi; Marcus Asner, Arnold & Porter, LLP**



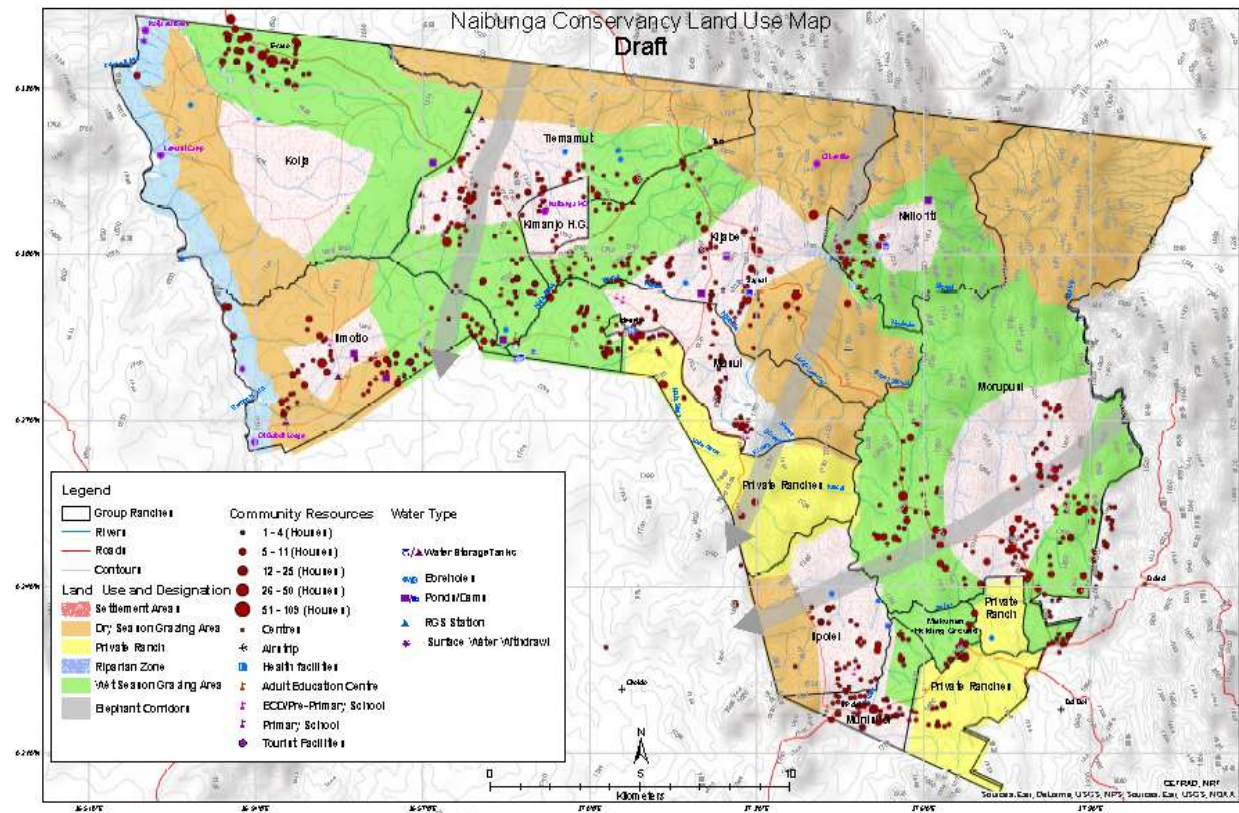
### Laikipia County Map



MAP SHOWING NAIBUNGA AND OTHER NRT CONSERVANCIES



**DRAFT NAIBUNGA LAND USE MAP**



**CHART DEVELOPED AT NAIBUNGA COMMUNITY MEETING TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES**



GROUP RANCHES	Water		MUNICIPALITY		GROUP RANCHES		FEEDBACK		FEEDBACK	
	✓	8	✓	10	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
1. KIDANE	✓	8	✓	10	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
2. MUKHATI	✓	10	✓	8	✓	4	✓	6	✓	6
3. MUKHATI	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
4. ILMOJOK	✓	10	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
5. MUNICHOLI	✓	8	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
6. KOLJA	✓	8	✓	10	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
7. TIAMAMUT	✓	6	✓	10	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
8. ILMOJOK	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6	✓	8
9. MORPUSI		6		8		8		6		8

Scale

10 - Very bad

8 - Fair Bad

6 - Fair

4 - Good

2 - Very bad

#WC - human wildlife conflict



APPROX EXTENT OF CORE NRT AREA, WITH NAIBUNGA SHADED RED



